

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in [one of Claim 1 to 5] Claim 5, characterized in that the bar code is applied annularly onto a cylindrical portion of the sample container in a manner that it is readable along the cylindrical axis.
7. (Amended) A method as claimed in [one of Claims 1 to 6] Claim 1, characterized in that the identification is applied along with numerals and/or letters.
8. (Amended) A method as claimed in [one of Claims 1 to 4] Claim 1, characterized in that the identification is applied in the form of numerals and/or letters.

**Remarks**

The revised claims are substantially the same as those in the application as filed.

The amendments eliminate multiple dependencies and alternative expressions, correct antecedent basis, eliminate unnecessary limitations, and otherwise conform the claims to U.S. Practice.

Respectfully submitted,



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